

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a filter for a router, comprising the steps of:

providing a set of pre-written router filters within one or more files;

providing a router filter written specifically for the router, wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written;

running a program on a computer to ~~identify one~~ determine if any of the pre-written filter files ~~as a substitute for matches, according to given criteria,~~ said specifically written filter; and

if one of the pre-written filters is found to match, according to said given criteria, said specifically written filter, then loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router and using said one of the pre-written filters to determine how the router routes data.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter according to a predefined set of criteria.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of running the program includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter, and searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

6. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a filter for a router, comprising:

computer readable medium including a set of pre-written router filters;

computer readable medium including a router filter written specifically for the router, wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written;

computer readable medium including a program for running on a computer to identify one of the pre-written filters as a substitute for said specifically written filter; and

means for loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

7. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, a filter in the said specifically written filter file.

8. (Original) A system according to Claim 7, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.
9. (Original) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.
10. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means for identifying defined features of the specifically written filters, and for searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.
11. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for identifying a filter for a router, said method steps comprising:
- reading a set of pre-written router filters within one or more filter files;
- reading a router filter file written specifically for the router, wherein said pre-written filters are written before the specifically written filter is written; and
- identifying one of the pre-written filters within the pre-written filter files as a substitute for said specifically written filter within the router specific filter file.

12. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter file.

13. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said method steps further include the step of loading the identified filter file onto the router.

14. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefined set of criteria.

15. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter file, and searching the pre-written filter files for the identified defined features.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the loading step includes the step of loading both said one of the pre-written filters and said specifically written filter onto the router.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein:

the step of providing a router filter written specifically for the router includes the step of a group of specified individuals providing a plurality of router filters written specifically for the router;

the step of running said program includes the step of running said program to identify, for each of said specifically written filters, one of the pre-written filter files as a match for said each of said specifically written filters; and

said pre-defined set of criteria are determined at the time said program is run and is provided by said group of specified individuals.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the loading step includes the step of, if one of the pre-written filters is found to match, according to said given criteria, said specifically written filter, then creating a data structure for said one of the pre-written filters and loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router; and

the method comprises the further step of, if none of the pre-written filters is found to match said specifically written filter, then creating a data structure entry for said specifically written filter and loading said specifically written filter onto the router.